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LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S
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THE Torch

WOMEN CONTINUE
WINNING STREAK / 4

PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

OSPIRG is bringing a giant inflated leatherneck sea turtle to LCC in the hopes that it will promote the use of reusable grocery bags instead of plastic bags. Plastics bags are often mistaken for jellyfish, which is one of the main foods leatherneck turtles eat. The turtle will be occupying Bristow Square today.

Inflatable turtle to raise awareness of plastic waste

BY KYLE CHASE
Reporter

LCC will host several events to commemorate Oceans Week, starting with OSPIRG's Feb. 6 campaign for students to reduce their plastic bag usage.

Today, OSPIRG will bring a 30-foot plastic, inflatable turtle that has made stops at Southern Oregon University and UO, before making its way to LCC. OSPIRG will have tables with flyers and information outside the Center Building to draw awareness to the pollution in the Pacific Ocean. There will also be music and guest speakers, including LCC President Mary Spilde.

"In Oregon, our share is 1.7 billion plastic bags each year that we use, and only 5 percent of those

are ever recycled," said Jordan Mussack, campaign coordinator for OSPIRG.

Portland recently passed a law banning plastic bags in stores and other cities may follow suit. The reason for this is the growing concern over plastic waste that is accumulating in the Pacific Ocean.

Louise Wilcox, OSPIRG's visibility coordinator, started helping the organization on its Hunger and Homelessness campaign, and wanted to make a difference in other areas that they're involved with.

She said she was shocked by the amount of pollution and trash that people pile up throughout their lives.

Currently, there is an island in the Pacific Ocean that scientists estimate to be one to two

times the size of Texas, comprised largely of plastic bags and bottles. It takes plastic, on average, 500 years to start degrading.

"It's a good idea to bring awareness of how much waste we put in our oceans," Wilcox said. "We can see a trash island from space."

OSPIRG will offer students alternatives, including free canvas bags and asking students to commit to reducing or eliminating their plastic bag use by signing a pledge.

"It's a pretty simple solution if people remember to use a reusable bag on their way to the grocery store," said OSPIRG Campus Organizer Trevor Hutcheson.

Those interested in joining or getting involved in OSPIRG can get more information in the Center Building's basement office.

Senate OKs new club: Occupy LCC

Student government approves \$950 for other clubs and events.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA
Senior Reporter

ASLCC lost Sen. Danielle Brandon after the Feb. 1 meeting, but it was business as usual Feb. 8. The Senate appointed a temporary secretary, approved a funds request for \$500 and ratified a new Occupy LCC club.

Brandon declined to comment on the reason for her resignation, but Sen. LynDel Simmons said she believed Brandon resigned due to comments made about her at the Feb. 1 meeting, in which the Senate voted to retain two academically ineligible members, President Mario Parker-Milligan and Vashti Selix, ASLCC's gender and sexual diversity advocate.



Danielle Brandon

Brandon was also academically ineligible, but the Senate earlier voted to allow her to continue in her position. She voted against retaining Parker-Milligan and Selix.

At the Feb. 8 meeting, Sen. Alfonso Macias agreed to become the temporary Senate Secretary for the next 30 days. Senators Veronica Rodriguez and LynDel Simmons withdrew their nominations during yesterday's meeting, leaving Macias as the only remaining person nominated for the position.

Rodriguez said she withdrew her nomination to focus on her schoolwork. A motion was passed by ASLCC to make the secretary position a temporary one and give the bylaws committee 30 days to recommend whether the position should be retained or terminated.

After the announcement that the secretary position would be temporary, Simmons withdrew her nomination as well.

Macias will begin his role next week and is excited to contribute to the Senate.

"I'm here everyday, at every Senate meeting and workday," Alfonso said. "I know how to be organized and the office is like my home, so I can do the position."

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FLY-IN BUY-IN



PHOTO BY TURNER MAXWELL FOR THE TORCH

Former LCC instructor Pete Peterson attended the one-night Fly-In, Feb. 4, at The Studio inside the Hult Center. The event exhibited more than 100 photo cutouts of flying people created by David Joyce. The cutouts, which used to decorate the passenger terminal at Mahlon Sweet Airport, were sold first to the people used in the photos. The works that were not purchased by the end of the evening were available to the public for purchase.

IT briefs Board of Ed on Moodle revamp

Technology dean presents the future of online education, which has seen a 193 percent increase since 2009.

BY KYLE WEBB
Reporter

Lane Online was the highlight of the Feb. 8 LCC Board of Education meeting after Division Dean of Academic Technology Brad Hinson presented the state of online education and its potential future.

The Lane Online coordinator said students and instructors must "unlearn" old software in order to keep up with evolving technologies.

Hinson said technology reinvents society "like flight, the printing press, the automobile. The Internet is the next thing, and we need to look at Lane's needs, to adapt to accommodate this."

Hinson and his team have been working on rebranding Distance Learning to Lane Online with considerable improvements, not only for students but also for staff and faculty alike.

The changes already in effect are the name

change to Lane Online, the revamping of Moodle and the focusing of Lane Online to not only accommodate online-only students, but also to those students who are taking classroom, online and hybrid courses.

"A one-year comparison of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal year shows steady growth of online students ... from 12 to 14 thousand," Hinson said. "In a five-year window, the growth is 193 percent."

Hinson said faculty needed to understand "the demand is there. It's modern education. It is what the students demand."

The focus of the shift to a more modern education doesn't solely rest on updating Moodle, or making online classes more accessible, but also on faculty professional development.

Hinson loaned iPads to board members to let them see how effective classes and other

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Fight for the recognition of same-sex marriage

Change is in the air when it comes to the recognition of same-sex marriage.

Washington State's House of Representatives passed a bill 55-43 on Feb. 8 recognizing same-sex marriage. The hurdle left to jump is obtaining Gov. Chris Gregoire's signature, and her approval is anticipated.

If Gregoire signs the bill, Washington will become the seventh state to legalize same-sex marriage, joining the ranks of Iowa, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

This follows a key decision made by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Feb. 7 that declared California's famed Proposition 8, or the California Marriage Protection Act, unconstitutional.

In his decision, Circuit Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote the proposition serves no purpose but to lessen "the status and human dignity of

gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples."

Like residents of Washington today, thousands of Californians gathered to celebrate, but many haven't realized the battle for same-sex marriage is still being fought.

A "stay" has been issued for Proposition 8, meaning that same-sex marriages will still not be recognized or be performed in The Golden State. Those against the opinion have until Feb. 28 to issue an appeal against the opinion to the U.S. Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

And people are already stating their opposition. In the hours after the opinion was released, Republicans everywhere were quick to deliver their disapproval.

Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich responded in a statement "... more and more Americans are being exposed to the

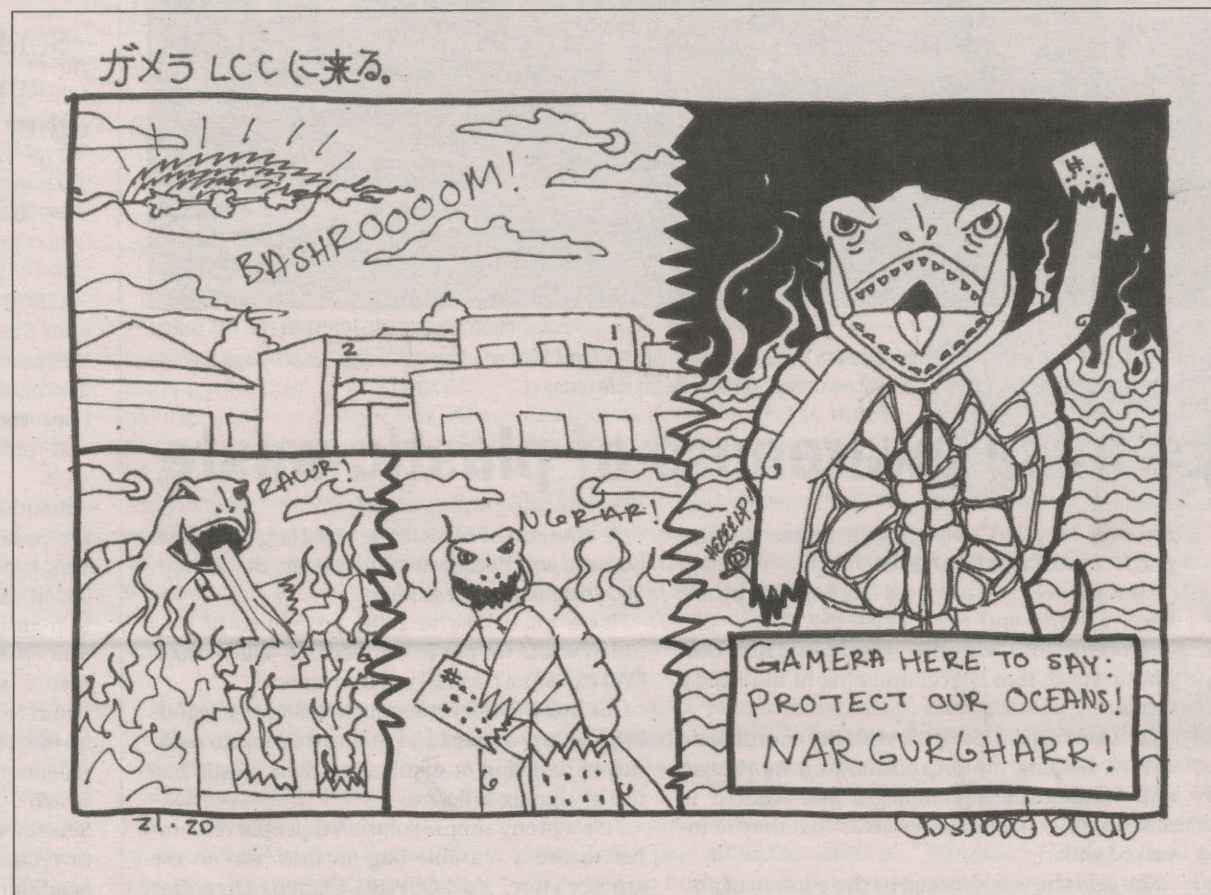
radical overreach of federal judges and their continued assault on the Judeo-Christian foundations of the United States."

The Torch congratulates Washington on legislators' decision and encourages California gay-rights activists in their fight for the recognition of same-sex marriage and equality for everyone. It is also crucial that these conversations happen elsewhere, particularly in Oregon.

It is easy to be excited for California's big step, but the movement needs to be brought here. Talk to your representatives, your classmates, and your parents.

Share your views and ask for the equality that is the right of everyone, regardless of sexual orientation.

Turn that talk into action and make history. All it takes is a phone call or a stamp. Equality will never happen unless there is a voice behind it.



WAY TO GO

- OSPIRG is trying hard during Oceans Week to raise awareness of pollution in the Pacific Ocean. Students can pledge to reduce or eliminate their usage of plastic bags and get a free canvas one in return.
- The LCC women's basketball team has won six straight games. Now's the time to stock up on Titans gear!

MAYBE SO

- ASLCC is back to business as usual, though they did outright ignore any concerns of unconstitutionality.

HELL NO

- The most popular bus line to LCC, route 82, has no rain shelter and because the bus only has one stop here, students are getting soaked walking across campus.

Save yourself, speak up for women's issues

LANE'S LESSONS LEARNED



BY KINZLEY PHILLIPS
Editor-in-Chief

Most women have experienced some form of sexual harassment and brushed it aside: the guy who groped you in transit or at the bar, the crude remark made by a co-worker you were too cautious to confront, or even worse crimes, like flashing, peeping or taking unwanted photos.

Most disregard these instances of harassment because they're embarrassed or afraid of being berated for making a big deal out of it.

But speaking out against sexual harassment is the only way to alter the cultural assumption that this type of sexual misconduct is permissible as long as it isn't violent or predatory.

I was 13 the first time I remember a strange man hitting on me. I was in New York, where I had never been before, and I was beyond creeped out. Even now I can remember the mass of curly black chest hair exploding out of his white shirt and how instantly terrified I was at the thought that some full-grown man might find me attractive.

Since then I've been approached by countless other strange men who — with no encouragement on my part — felt it was appropriate to assert their attraction to me.

Once after a workplace conflict, which included continuously inappropriate comments by colleagues both at and above my station, I felt like I was getting special consideration from my co-workers. Whether it was true or not, I had concluded they were coerced by attraction to allow me more freedoms, consent and willingness for collabora-

tion than would have been given to others in my position, and it killed my confidence. I wanted to be appreciated for my own merits as an employee, not because of my body. Whether we're consciously aware of it or not, this type of misconduct can have lasting effects on one's self-esteem, creating image insecurities, a lack of social confidence, anxiety in crowded situations and misconceived ideas about one's professional performance or competence. And if this harassment goes unpunished, it often leads the violators to further assert their power over women in more serious offenses.

The FBI recently updated its definition of rape to now include any instances of vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with any body part or object — after 80 years of abiding by the strict definition of rape as a man's penis nonconsensually entering a woman's vagina.

The new definition also includes men, and anyone unconscious at the time of the incident. However, where the line is drawn in instances of intoxication is still unclear.

Cosmopolitan has made a push, in conjunction with safecampus.org and Campus Accountability Project, to publish 239 sexual assault policies for colleges in the U.S. and Canada. In

addition, lobbyists have gained more than 3,122 signatures on the Campus Save Act Petition, which would mandate that colleges appropriately address campus sexual assaults.

You might remember after last

year's arrest of a sex offender on LCC's main campus who failed to register as such, the college changed its policies on providing the names of registered sex offenders to students in the Public Safety office.

LCC Chief Financial Officer Greg Morgan *The Torch* 27 sex offenders had registered with the college in recent years. LCC changed the Annual Security Report, which LCC must publish in accordance with the Clery Act, to reflect the new policy.

In January, another sex offender was arrested on campus by the Lane County Sheriff's Office for failure to register and Public Safety would not provide his name. Two women reported forcible violent sex offenses on the Cottage Grove LCC campus in 2010.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in five female college students will be the victim of a rape or an attempted rape, and only an estimated one in three rapes are reported, with even fewer resulting in conviction.

Why?

Some speculations say that colleges

inadequately report and convict rape cases to save their reputations, while others see shame and social discomfort as a major factor in the statistics.

See it from any side you want, but see that women still suffer when they shouldn't. Victims deserve to see their attackers convicted, and in modern civilization this should never be the case.

We've used our voice before to create social change, secure our right to vote, represent ourselves in court and, more recently, stave off the defunding of Planned Parenthood — twice.

When Planned Parenthood faced defunding from the federal government, hundreds protested in Eugene's city center to stand up for the right to free reproductive healthcare.

I am proud to say I was one of those who marched through the snow and rain.

More recently, when Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation withheld funds from the organization, an online outrage erupted and encouraged 26 senators to help reverse the decision.

Please take a pledge to add your voice to the many women speaking up in the name of sexual equity. Speak up to stop the defunding of reproductive healthcare; the lack of transparency in colleges about rape-related policies, procedures and reporting; and the passive acceptance of rape under intoxicants, sexual harassment, groping and the commonplace creepy comments that coerce us to assume the position of a second-class sex.

MEET THE BOARD

Johnston grows as LCC student, board member

BY LEAH AVERETT
Senior Reporter

LCC Board of Education member Susie Johnston started her very first college term as a student at the age of 59. She enrolled in 2006, after serving the board for less than a year — 40 years after she graduated high school.

"I was incredibly reluctant to let anyone know I was on the board," she said.

"Susie would not have wanted anyone to give her special treatment," said assistant to the president Donna Zmolek, who is also Johnston's friend.

Although going to college was a daunting prospect for her, Johnston's son, Nicholas Johnston, said she regretted not attending college sooner.

Johnston said she remembered being "a dismal high school student" who thought she wasn't very bright, and that she needed much encouragement to begin.

She began attending LCC through the Women in Transitions program, and the tight-knit group of students supported each other in their self-discovery.

"I'm so grateful for that, for a variety of reasons. There was such a spectrum of ages. ... It was a validation of who we were — who we could be, what we could do," Johnston said.

The dual role of LCC student and LCC Board of Education member lent Johnston a unique perspective to the monthly board meetings.

She could see from a personal level the influence policy decisions had on the classroom experience and student life.

"Being a student gave me a voice. I am there. I'm doing it. I had the opportunity to really see who the students are," Johnston said.

Although she was initially reluctant to run for LCC Board of Education because she did not have a college degree, she ran anyway. After "a most sensational loss," she vacillated back and forth on her decision to make a second attempt.

For two years, she went to the LCC board meetings to watch and think. At some meetings she told herself that she could do what the board members were doing, but other meetings left her thinking she still

had a lot to learn.

With a strong desire to serve, and propelled by the positive effects of education on the lives of the children and families in her work at Jasper Mountain, a center for abused children and families, she decided she had to run again.

She won the election in 2005, representing District 4, which includes Eastern Lane County, and is currently serving a second term as chairperson because she likes to steer the meetings "to move them along and herd the cats."

"Her sense of humor and ability to think outside the box has really benefited her with the difficult decisions the board has had to make in the past few years," said her longtime friend, Ellen Hyman.

"She is personable, friendly and easygoing, but dives into the serious issues when necessary," said Zmolek, who attends each meeting to transcribe the minutes.

Johnston said she believes it is important to use bond money to improve and refurbish LCC, create comfortable student areas, improve technology and enhance the beauty of the campus.

Having seven board members that are so diverse in their backgrounds, professions and personalities is wonderful, she said.

"Rather than one person being brilliant at a particular thing, each of us add amazing value to the group," Johnston said.

Approximately a year after her divorce, she is currently taking a break from school. Although she has an eventual goal of getting an associate's degree, she was taking classes primarily to enrich her life.

Her three children are now adults, but she was active in their schools when they were children, serving as a room mother and on the Pleasant Hill School Board. In addition to currently serving on the LCC Board of Education, she has also served on the Oregon Community College Association executive committee for three years.

"She likes being integrated into the community, and is always excited to learn about other people — who they are, and what they are doing. She will help out where no one else will, as in her work at Jasper Mountain for over a decade," Nicholas said.



PHOTO BY LEAH AVERETT FOR THE TORCH

LCC Board of Education member Susie Johnston sits outside Vero Espresso in Eugene. Johnston is the representative for District 4, which includes Eastern Lane County.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Traffic accident

On Jan. 24, a person high-centered his vehicle on a concrete traffic barrier in Lot L. Public Safety moved the vehicle with the assistance of a tow truck.

No citations were issued.

Driving while suspended

On Jan. 30, a vehicle spun out, throwing mud.

The driver of the vehicle was issued a citation and an order to appear before the vice president of student affairs for driving with a suspended license.

Menacing

On Feb. 1, an incident of menacing was reported to Public Safety, which is still under investigation.

Hit and run

On Feb. 2, a hit and run incident was reported. Public Safety is still investigating the matter.

Racing

On Feb. 5, two vehicles were reportedly racing in Lot L. Public Safety has no further information.

NEWS BRIEFS

LCC instructor to receive Trailblazer Award

Greg Evans will be presented with the 2012 Trailblazer Award from the Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers at its annual celebration at the Salem Conference Center on Feb. 11.

The award recognizes contributions to furthering the advancement of African Americans in Oregon.

Evans is an instructor in ethnic studies at LCC and directs the African American Student Program.

For the more information, visit <http://www.lanecc.edu/mpr/news/rel01498.htm>

KLCC to host annual microbrew festival

KLCC 89.7 FM will host its 22nd annual festival celebrating microbrews on Feb. 10 and 11.

The hours of the festival are 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Feb. 10 and from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Feb. 11.

The event will feature 57 breweries from Oregon, California, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Utah, Hawaii and Vermont, with more than 120 craft beers being served.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information on the event, go to <http://www.lcctorch.com>.

Counseling Department to close Feb. 10

The Counseling Department will be closed for a diversity in-service day on Friday, Feb. 10.

This includes Testing, Career and Employment Services, and Counseling and Advising. The department will reopen on Monday, Feb. 13, at 8 a.m.

GSA hosts Naughty Bake Sale

The Gay-Straight Alliance, formerly known as XYZ Club, is having its second Naughty Bake Sale on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Center Building cafeteria.

FEBRUARY 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

Just Because...

"You make me smile"

"You hold a special place in my heart"

"I Love You"

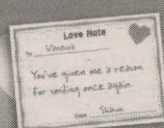
"You are my animal companion"

"You are my friend"

Give a just because gift from the Titan Store

Titan Store's
2ND ANNUAL

Post a
"Love Note"



and gift sales in
Cafeteria

Mon. & Tues.

Feb. 13-14

Euphoria Truffles

Chocolate Covered
Caramels

Novelty Candies

Greeting Cards

Jewelry

Candles

Fun Gifts

In-Store

Sales

Lane
Community College



LINDSEY'S LINE



BY LINDSEY KIDWELL
Reporter

Passionately driven to report

As a woman going into the world of sports journalism, I often get asked what motivates me and how far I want to go with it.

It seems to surprise everyone that a young woman cares so much about the sports industry — but for me, it's a way of life.

I've lived and breathed sports for 10 years now. It's become a love, an addiction and what drives my outlook on the world.

I was born and raised in the small town of Redmond. That is where every dream, goal and aspiration in my life was created.

At the age of 9 years old, I started swimming competitively. I eventually had several state championships under my belt and was a member of the NCSA National Team, nearly qualifying for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trial Team in the 100-meter breaststroke.

That is where my love of sports began.

As my swimming career ended, I began to find a new love for sports. College football and the NBA became my passion.

More specifically, I became a Duck and a Blazer fan.

Missing a game became unheard of.

Because the intensity and excitement got the best of me, I now get to start my career in the sports world.

Becoming a sports reporter during my freshman year of college is a dream come true. It's the very first step up the long flight of stairs that I hope to slowly, but surely climb.

Ideally, I will take the telecommunications route, with aspirations to become a sideline reporter for ESPN. My drive and passion is for the interviewing and communications area of the industry.

My inspiration comes from the infamous ESPN sideline reporter, Erin Andrews. Though it is typical for any woman in this industry to love Andrews, there is something else to it. She fascinates me. Her confidence and technique while interviewing are motivating and exemplary.

The process of interviewing is acquired over time. It can be incredibly nerve-racking, but at the same time so exciting. It's one thing to ask questions in a formatted manner, but an interview in the sports world is nothing short of impromptu.

Learning to put aside the star-struck adrenaline running through your veins is a challenge in itself. Talking to a college athlete is somewhat intimidating, to say the least. That being said, nothing compares to the rush I feel after completing a sports interview.

In the meantime, my main focus will be on my writing. It is an important skill to have, as well as a stepping stone to future careers.

Every day is a learning experience. With each interview and each story, I plan to gain more knowledge — the kind that I need to become an expert in the industry.

My career has just begun, and I absolutely adore what I do.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Titans send Roadrunners packing 77-54

The winning streak continues.

BY LINDSEY KIDWELL
Reporter

The Titans sent the Linn-Benton Roadrunners (10-12, 3-6 Southern Region) on the road, running back to Albany after a 77-54 win on Feb. 8 while continuing a six-game winning streak.

The Titans improved to 18-4 and 8-1 in conference.

For the crowd, the game appeared to be an easy win for the Titans, never holding less than an 11-point lead in the second half.

But the team felt differently. "We dug ourselves a hole. They were scoring, and we weren't scoring," said freshman Kersey Wilcox.

After a slow start, the Titans quickly jumped ahead and hit the ground running. They went into halftime with a 10-0 run behind them and led 32-19.

Wilcox ended the game with 23 points, including four baskets from behind the arc, and hit the floor with an explosive 6-0 run to start off the second half. She was 8-of-14 from the field and finished with seven assists.

"This is our house," Wilcox said. "We knew we had to own up to it, and we tried to go out there and dominate."

The Roadrunners erupted offensively and brought the game down to an 11-point deficit mid-way through the second half with an 11-0 run.

Linn-Benton sophomore post Heidi Halemeier completed the game with an outstanding second half, earning a double-double with 17 points and 11 rebounds.

"(The Titans) had a really good full court press, which is one of our weaknesses. We just tried to rush it, which caused traveling and turnovers and not being able to set up our plays," said Halemeier.

The Roadrunners committed 32 turnovers.

The Titans shot 44 percent from inside the arc but completed 14-of-36 from the three-point line. Wilcox and freshman Danielle Schmidt scored eight of the 14 three-pointers.

Schmidt has earned herself a starting role, becoming a key player in and out of the paint for the Titans. She ended the game making 7-of-10 field goals and 4-of-5 from the three-point line. She finished with 21 points, all in the second half.

"I started out with not a lot of confidence and now it's starting to get there," said Schmidt. "It makes a big difference getting to practice with the people you play with in the game."

The Titans turned in their sixth win in a row, and are hungry for more.

"It's really nice. I really thought they had been playing well building up, and so maybe my expectations for tonight were a little bit high, but they've really shown us that they can do a lot of positive things," said Head Coach Greg Sheley.

After a devastating loss to the Chemeketa Storm (14-5, 6-2 Southern Region) earlier this season, the Titans are getting geared up to make a comeback against the stiff Southern Region competitors on Saturday in hopes of bringing home a seventh straight win.



PHOTO BY JOSH ROSE FOR THE TORCH

Freshman Danielle Schmidt splits the Roadrunners' defenders Feb. 8 at Titan Court. Schmidt finished the contest with 21 points.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Colemans erupt with 30 points against Roadrunners

Titans one game away from final playoff spot.

BY RYAN KOSTECKA
Senior Reporter

Lane's men's basketball team picked up a big win on Wednesday night, defeating Linn-Benton Community College 72-55, inching closer to that final playoff spot for the Southern Region.

The Titans (10-11, 4-5 Southern Region) moved within a game of the last playoff spot while knocking down the second-place Roadrunners to third, only two games behind them.

"That was a huge win for us. We played with a swag in the second half," Head Coach Bruce Chavka said. "They quit in the second half. They didn't want to keep playing us anymore."

It was also good night for the Colemans.

Freshman brothers Tyler and Alex Coleman combined for 30 points and 13 rebounds to lead the way.

The Titans began the game with a 9-0 run, starting with Tyler Coleman's three-point basket 7 seconds into the game.

The Roadrunners fought their way back into the game, taking a 17-16 lead at the 12-minute mark on a basket by guard Colton Evans.

Linn-Benton would get to their largest lead of the game at 6 points, 29-23, with 4:17 left to play in the first half.

A basket by Alex Coleman with 48 seconds left tied the game at 34-34 and allowed the two teams to go into halftime evened up.

The second half didn't go as planned for the Titans to begin with, after a three-point basket by the Roadrunners put them up 39-36 three minutes into the half.

However, the Titans refused to yield, going on a 16-2 run over the next 5 minutes to get up 52-41 with 12 minutes left in the half.

Tyler Coleman scored 9 of his game-high 16 points during that run.

A basket by freshman Tyree Newman, 8 points and four boards in the second half, put the game out of reach for good and extended the Titan lead to 19 points, 72-53, the biggest lead of the night with 1:30 left in the game.

"Tyree is finally getting in his groove and feeling more comfortable on the court," Chavka said. "It was good to see him play well for us."

The Titans played exceptional defense in the second half, holding Linn-Benton to only 23 percent shooting.

They also out-rebounded the physically bigger Roadrunners 25-14 in the second half, led by seven rebounds from Alex Coleman and four from Newman.

"We've been preaching the motto D-R-C, which is 'defense, rebounding, compete,'" Tyler Coleman said. "For the last few weeks we've been competing but when we rebound and play defense like we did tonight, we are able to win games."

For the game, Tyler Coleman finished with 16 points and six rebounds, Alex Coleman finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, and fellow freshman Levi Strandberg finished with 15 points.

The Titans play the Chemeketa Storm on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. in Salem and then return home to play SWOCC on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Chemeketa and SWOCC hold two of the four playoff spots in the Southern Region.

"I think we've got a real good chance of hurting (Chemeketa's) feelings at home," Alex Coleman said. "We have to come out like we did tonight — fire out of the gate — and hurt their feelings."



PHOTO BY JOSH ROSE FOR THE TORCH

Freshman Tyler Coleman scored 16 points in a 72-55 Titans victory Feb. 8 at Titan Court.

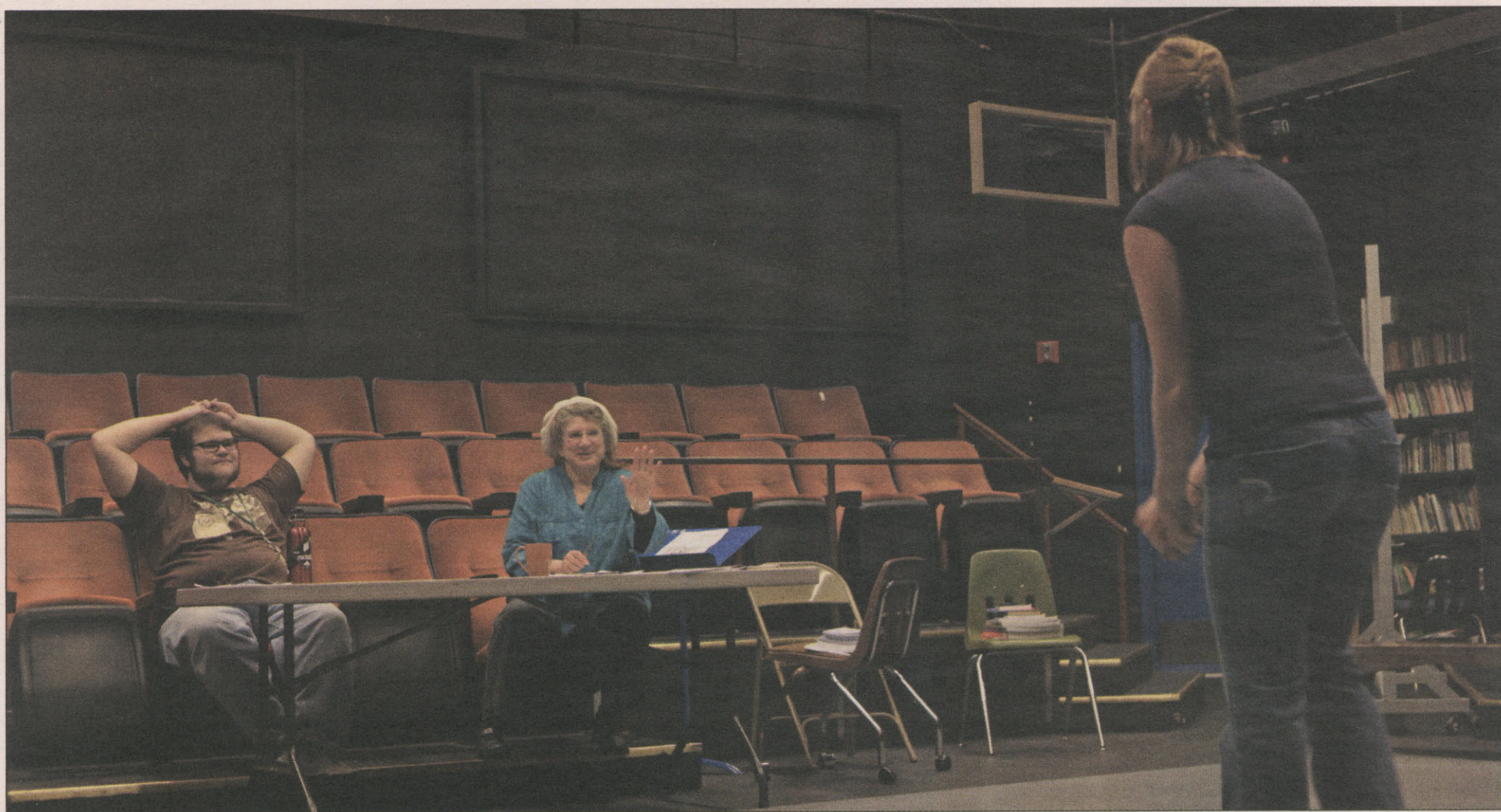


PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

A student auditions before Student Productions Association member Tim O'Donnell and *Twelfth Night* director Judith "Sparky" Roberts.

Student actors vie for **Twelfth Night** spotlight

BY LEAH AVERETT
Senior Reporter

He paced the hall, one hand balled in a fist. The other chopped the air with huge sweeping gestures. His voice rang off the tile walls as he practiced his lines in the precious few minutes before the audition.

Other students sat cross-legged on the concrete floor, tabletops and in the scattered chairs, feeding each other verbal cues or mouthing their selected monologues quietly. Each of them had prepared for audition night alone beforehand, and the actors were anxious.

Students auditioned last week at LCC's Blue Door Theater for the famous William Shakespeare's comedy, *Twelfth Night*. It will be the first time the college has performed this play, which opens April 12, with a gala opening on April 13. Judith "Sparky" Roberts, theater arts instructor, is the director.

Twelfth Night is a love story, with a comedic subplot full of jealousy, cross-dressing and a shipwreck of dramatic proportions.

The cast list took over a week to complete and was posted on Feb. 6.

LCC acting major Dustin "D.J." Luna said auditions are always "scary and intimidating."

"You practice and practice and have no idea what the director is looking for," he said. "The first eight seconds are crucial. They judge you from the moment you start walking on stage, and the next 10 seconds is your speech or song."

Overthinking the audition can hamper even the best performer.

"I don't like to over-prepare ... just have fun. I have monologues that I can just pull out of my back pocket," said LCC acting major Joseph Tanner Paul. He said he was a nursing student two years ago when he took an acting class on a whim, and discovered how much he really liked being on stage.

Other students feel the stress of the demanding hours and decide to take a break from auditioning. LCC student Ben Wefler auditioned after taking months off from seeking roles.

"It shouldn't be tortuous. I don't want it to feel like work, and it depends on the monologue and the director if it will. I love my art, but I suffer for it," Wefler said.

"My favorite part is just letting loose and entirely developing my imagination and my artistic freedom," he said.

Luna said the key to auditioning is not taking rejection personally.

"I go get an ice cream cone and tell myself that I just wasn't right for the part. It helps. But I know there are definitely people that are better than me. It just gives me room to grow," he said. He is currently playing a lead role in a Cottage Theater production of *Don't Drink the Water*.

Roberts recognizes how difficult it is for some stu-

dents to expose themselves on stage. Prior to beginning the auditions, she went out to speak to the waiting group of actors to put them at ease.

"I'm pretty easygoing. I don't want anyone to get too wrought up and tense. Relaxed is best — you will do your best work then," she said to the actors.

Roberts said most acting teachers require their students to audition for parts to build their confidence and skills.

Budding actors benefit from being cast in minor parts to get accustomed to the limelight, the pressure, and learn the specific theater language such as stage directions. Learning to be consistent night after night and to relax on stage is essential, she said.

For the *Twelfth Night* auditions she is seeking acting students who have participated in a Shakespeare showcase or acted in a Shakespeare play.

"They need to think and talk it. It needs to come natural. Shakespeare is much like music. It was meant to be heard, not read," Roberts said.

Theater major Clay Johnson has done seven Shakespeare showcases, and understands the language.

"The prose and structure makes sense to me. I have a large vocabulary, and know what odd words mean," he said.

An actor must have the ability to translate the words of Shakespeare with emotion and vitality or an audience will grapple with the unfamiliar language.

"Most people don't get it if it's just read dry. Every facet, from body language to inflection, and the tone of voice is important," Johnson said.

Twenty years ago, LCC instructor and actor Bill Woolum worked alongside Roberts to actualize the LCC Shakespeare Showcases.

Roberts said her and Woolum's passion for Shakespeare continues to evolve and deepen.

"We are flipped out about it. I tell students it's better than drugs ... it's a treasure chest of jewels," she said.

Roberts said she is pleased and proud that current and prior LCC acting students have branched out into acting for other community theaters, including The Very Little Theater, the Lord Leebrick Theatre Company and the Actors Cabaret of Eugene. She supports the open exchange that channels actors between the LCC theater program and other community theaters.

Roberts said she is committed to creating a Shakespeare play that can be embraced by any audience. After a play, she is thrilled to hear play attendees say incredulously, "I understood it, everything — every word."

For the actors immersed in Shakespearean drama, the substance and lessons of his language evolve and intensify with time.

Woolum said, "It's the joy of having my body occupied by Shakespeare ... We come under the spell of Shakespeare's beauty, we surrender to it and the experience is sublime."

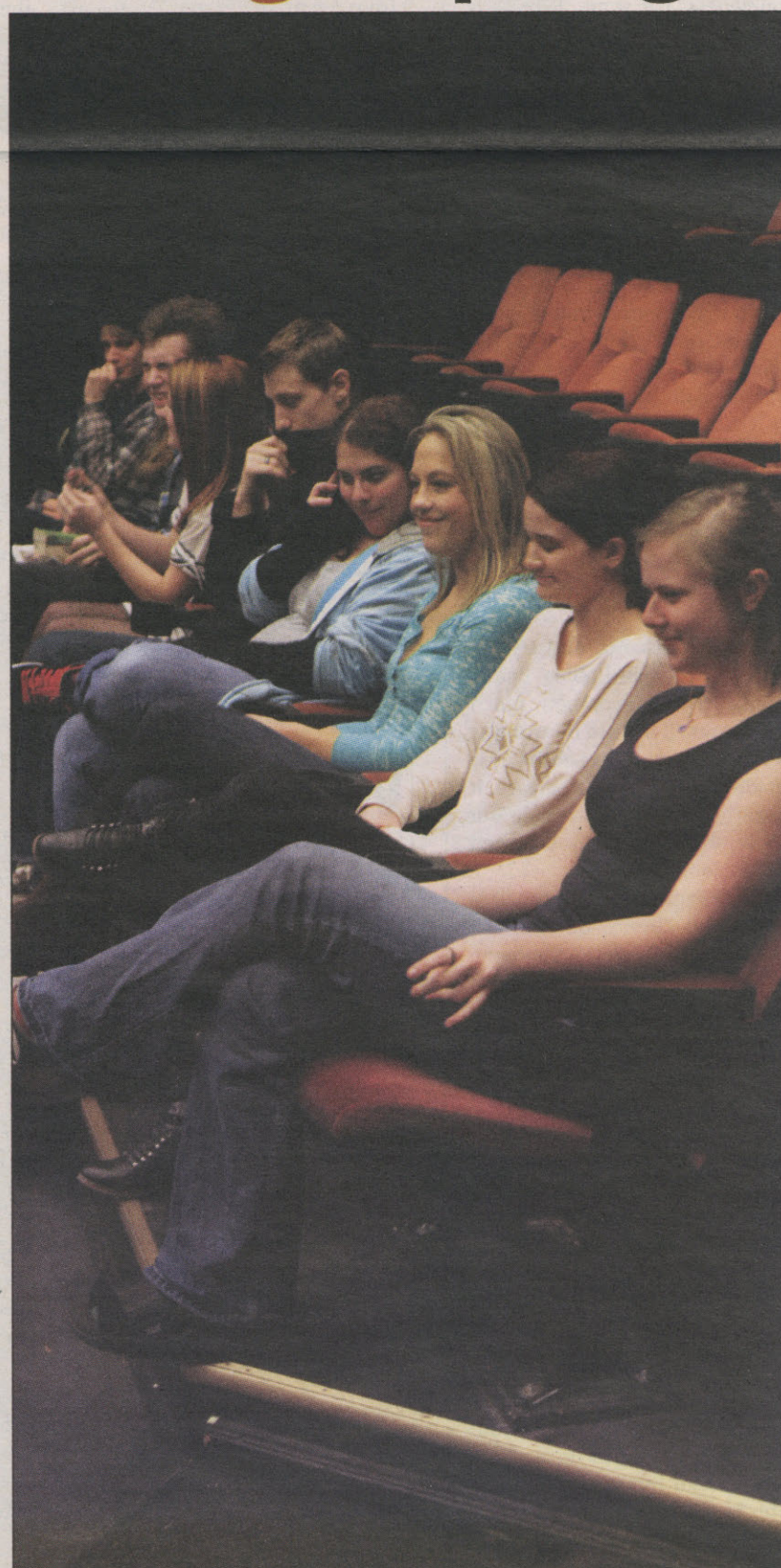


PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

Students wait in the Blue Door Theater for their chance to audition for *Twelfth Night*.

OUTSIDE THE BOX



BY CHELSEA VAN BAALEN
A&E Editor

A new way to spend V-Day

It's here. In fact, it's been here. That horrifically sweet time of year when the world is drenched in pink, chalky heart-shaped candies are distributed, and everyone asks one question: "Will you be mine?"

Valentine's Day has for too long been tagged as the one day a year set aside to show your true affections to your current squeeze. I have to ask, when did everything get so clinically exclusive?

Remember Valentine's Day in elementary school? The entire class would distribute their chosen cards (usually themed, if you were cool) to everyone. There wasn't choosiness when it came to who you wanted to be yours. Everyone got candy, cards and shared the love.

It's also key to remember that not everyone shares the bubble of coupleness. For some, Feb. 14 is Single Awareness Day. No, it's not a day to listen to Barry White and cry in your room, or to drown your sorrows in Ben & Jerry's.

But for those in a relationship, don't feel confined to heart-shaped confetti, red roses and gazing into each other's eyes over a romantic dinner.

Any day of the week can be as fun as you make it, even that dreaded or anticipated Valentine's Day. Here's some options I have floating around on my to-do list:

1. Grab someone and head over to Smith Family Bookstore. Everyone has a favorite book — or at least one they liked. Pick out a book for your partner in crime and have them do the same for you. Pinkie-promise that you'll actually read them.

2. Go the distance and try the 31 flavors Baskin-Robins boasts about. I'm not sure how much cajoling you'll have to do with the clerk, but a spoonful of each flavor shouldn't be terribly expensive. It might give you a sugar rush, but it'll be the most fun you've had with a spoon.

3. Make each other a mix CD. This may sound cheesy, but really it comes down to taste. Pick a theme other than the L-word. Maybe you pick songs exclusively from the year 1994? Or ones that have the word "summer" in them? This is a great way to display your music tastes in a new and creative way. Afterward, listen to them together and analyze just how good of a DJ you really are.

4. Pull out a world map, cover your eyes and point to a country. Immediately fly there. I'm kidding! Research a meal that centers exclusively on the countries you picked together. The more people you have picking countries, the more courses can be included. It might be better to do this the day before to give yourself time to shop for groceries. Bon appetit!

Whatever you do, whomever you're with, don't be afraid to think a little differently and have fun in a way you never expected.



PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

LCC media arts student Mark Gibson takes a photo of media arts instructor Jennifer Salzman's piece, "Empty," at the Exposed art exhibit in Building 11.

Faculty art 'Exposed' in Building 11 gallery exhibit

BY KYLE WEBB
Reporter

Like a camera exposing light to film, LCC faculty members aim to shed light on their talents as they reveal their new exhibit, Exposed, which opened Feb. 6 in the Main Art Gallery in Building 11.

The exhibit showcases eight instructors' work and 14 photos. There will be a reception for the exhibit Feb. 9 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the art gallery, where students and other admirers can meet the artists. The exhibit, scheduled by the LCC Gallery Committee, invited photo instructors to participate in showing their art and will run until Feb. 23.

"This gives students the opportunity to try and understand us as artists," said Jennifer Salzman, a member of the studio arts and media arts faculty. Salzman has two photos on display.

Second-year art student Kirby Picozzi said the exhibit is "refreshing and fun."

"It's a great way for students to see instructors in a professional setting," he said.

Instructor Dick Lennox will have two photos on display, which he hopes will show students "the importance of craftsmanship in their work."

Lennox said the art in the exhibit is "not all one style. Some are tradi-

tional and hand-colored while others are entirely digital."

The artists involved included both part-time and full-time instructors, something Lennox said gives the contributors "an opportunity for group display and lets students see instructors doing work too."

Lennox said the art of Exposed encourages viewers to interpret the art as they see fit.

"You have to let your children be themselves on the wall, instead of making excuses for what (the artists) are trying to do," Lennox said. "You have to let them take their place in

the universe."

Part-time instructor Damien McDonald left his work untitled for this very reason. He said he is looking forward to showing students his fine-art abilities versus the commercial photography he does most of the time.

"Fine art is less structured and allows for more room for interpretation," McDonald said. "This exhibit gives students a chance to see the instructors outside the confines of school, outside the role as an instructor."

The art isn't broken up into categories, which leaves more room for

interpretation by the viewer. With the instructors involved and a variety of photos on display, the faculty encourages all students to stop by and expose themselves to something new.

(Reporter Allie Church contributed to this report.)

EXPOSURE RECEPTION

When: Feb. 9, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Cost: Free

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ASLCC

Changes on rise post-trip

Members use information from Baltimore conference to create change.

BY MAYGAN BECKERS
Reporter

Although three members of ASLCC missed an important Senate meeting on Jan. 25, they brought ideas back to LCC from the Creating Change conference in Baltimore. The conference was held Jan. 25 to Jan. 29.

"I went to community-building workshops and also talked to a lot of folks on how to engage people in the LGBTQ community," said Jenny Lor, vice president of ASLCC. "A lot of what I'm working on in ASLCC is strengthening my leadership skills and being able to translate those skills to other people as well. It's important for me to be able to work with other people and to help them identify their leadership capacity and to really nurture those skills."

"I think that I was able to get a lot of really practical things out of the conference. I think any time when going to a conference, you always learn something new," Lor said.

Lor, ASLCC President Mario Parker-Milligan and Vashti Selix, the Senate's gender and sexual diversity advocate attended the conference. Consequentially, they were not present at the Jan. 25 ASLCC meeting, at which the consequences of Parker-Milligan's and Selix's academic ineligibility would have been discussed.

Lor said this was bad timing and beyond the conference attendees' control.

Parker-Milligan said his experience at the conference gave him an idea. In the near future, he plans to have the Black Student Union and a few other student clubs host showings of the film *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*.

"This film is about the life of a pacifist, non-violent activist that organized a march on Washington and was given little credit for it," said Parker-Milligan. "He was openly gay and outlived Martin Luther King Jr. and a lot of civil-disobedience activists."

Lor wanted to attend the conference because she felt there were a lot of interesting workshops that could benefit LCC.

Some of the skills she is trying to learn include how to work from the ground up by community-building and how to work with allies.

"This conference offered those culturally specific trainings," Lor said.

Lor said she thinks about what she can do to be a part of positive change. She works on ensuring tuition is available for all students so they have access to a higher education.

"A lot of the things that the conference did on a larger scale, (members of the Gay-Straight Alliance) try to do on a smaller scale. It's a lot of social events," said Max Jensen, vice president of the GSA.

"We're also going to be getting people into positions where they can advocate others and for the community," he said.

Jensen said the LGBTQ community had something for everyone at the conference.

"It was a really great conference. I have never seen something that big," he said. "The speakers were amazing."

In order to make LGBTQ feel empowered, Lor believes she needs to educate herself about issues that are important to her community. She recognizes that she has a couple of interests acting as a person in position of leadership, a woman of color, and identifying herself as queer.

"I think education, partnering with allies — people who are and aren't members of the community — and trying to find a common ground is important," Lor said.

"Oftentimes, I don't see people in positions of leadership who look like me and who come from the same communities. It's rare that we see women in positions of leadership," Lor said. "So, when you do see people in positions of leadership who are queer, Asian and first-generation American, you think that it's actually obtainable."

Because the conference was "a success" last year, Parker-Milligan and ASLCC Treasurer Tracy Weimer decided to place the conference within the ASLCC budget last summer, with \$3,500 being allocated for the trip. In her capacity as gender and sexual diversity advocate, Selix did the groundwork in recruiting, organizing and leading the delegation.

"I went into the conference confident with my goals of networking and gathering resources that would benefit LGBTQ students at LCC. Overall, both years have been life changing experiences," said Selix. "As a queer woman of color, there aren't many places that accept or empower all of my identities, so to be in a space where that's the case is the most affirming and healing experience."

For more information on the Creating Change conference, readers can log on to <http://www.creatingchange.org>.

BOARD: Marijuana policy tabled

Continued from Page 1

education-related applications could be.

He also offered tech support for board members if they needed help figuring out the device and its functions — the same tech support that would be offered in classes that use the applications for online classes.

While Hinson offered visions of the future should LCC choose to move in this direction, some board members had reservations about making more accommodations for online-based classes and the technology it brings.

Board member Gary LeClair said there seems to be more "social isolation due to more computers."

LeClair said he already notices students glued to cell phones and computers as it is, and that he is concerned that students with college-issued iPads might increase this social isolation, thus impeding their educations.

Jim Salt, LCC's Education Association's president, said he believed technology would not replace teachers.

"There is a real role for teachers that tech-

nology will not replace," Salt said. "The relationship between students and teachers will still be here."

Both Salt and LeClair voiced concerns about the potential loss of student-instructor connection, but Hinson assured the board that this "modern education" can work side by side with traditional teaching methods.

The presentation by Hinson focused on blending learning in classroom courses with online learning.

While Hinson's presentation was a predominant focus of the board meeting, the board also revised policies concerning both gambling, and the use of medical marijuana on campus, to remove redundant language.

According to LCC policy, "marijuana shall not be ingested on campus even with a medical marijuana card."

The board did not propose any changes to the policy of use of medical marijuana on campus but they tabled the discussion to next month's meeting so members could research older policies.

ASLCC: JSU, MEChA receive funds

Continued from Page 1

Tracy Weimer, ASLCC treasurer, presented a fund request of \$500 for the Oregon Community College Student Association's Lobby Day, on Feb. 13 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Students are invited to attend.

OCCSA did not book or pay for a venue in time for the event and asked Weimer, who is also a member of the OCCSA board, to request funds from ASLCC.

Because the funds request was not over \$500 and was on short notice, Weimer had the executive authority to approve the request, but she chose to involve ASLCC in the decision-making process.

"We really appreciate (Weimer) for doing that, involving us in the process of it," said Sen. Thomas Fiorelli.

The Senate passed the funds request unanimously.

ASLCC also unanimously ratified the creation of a new Occupy LCC club.

Occupy LCC members have brainstormed possible events or protests to be held in the near future. Everyone is welcome to join.

"The goal of the club is to push for a change on this campus and do that as much as possible," club president James Nichols said.

The club offers the students at LCC who feel oppressed an opportunity to learn how "to

engage (corporate) wealth with our numbers," Nichols said.

On Feb. 7, the Council of Clubs approved funds requests for two LCC clubs.

MEChA requested \$500 so it can have sweatshirts made prior to its national conference in Arizona during March. The sweatshirts would not just be promoting the MEChA movement, but also have the LCC logo on it.

The Council of Clubs disapproved the initial offer of \$500 but approved a smaller request of \$450 for its sweatshirts.

The Jewish Student Union is cooperating with the Black Student Union to plan an event, the goal of which is to raise awareness of the diversity that exists within both the African-American and Jewish communities.

The event will be on Feb. 22 in the Multi-Cultural Center and consist of a PowerPoint presentation by BSU member Eric Richardson about African Jews.

The council initially denied the JSU's funds request of \$100 for food and drinks for the event, but both sides came to an agreement in the end. The Council of Clubs agreed to reimburse the JSU for any funds they use for the event, up to \$100.

"All food served will be kosher food and the students attending will benefit from the event because it will nourish both their minds and stomach," JSU member Ariel Weinstein said.

Time Exchange trades skill for skill with cash alternatives

BY LEAH AVERETT
Senior Reporter

The idea of not paying for haircuts, meals or massages attracted many people to join the Emerald Valley Time Exchange over the past three years. With approximately 100 members and steady growth, they are optimistic about this year's future.

Time exchanges, which offer their members the opportunity to trade services instead of paying with cash, have thrived in this economic climate.

The list of current services offered by EVTE members include house-keeping, photography, errands, transportation, yoga, life-coaching, grant-writing, web design, meal preparation and fundraising, to name a few. Members also offer lessons in beer brewing, Photoshop, felting and disc golf.

LCC student Anthony Heinz, who has been an EVTE member for more than a year, said the primary service he offers is fixing computers and software tutoring. The hours he spent working on someone's computer were logged into EVTE's web-based time bank, where they

accumulate until spent on a service offered by another member. He exchanged some of his hours with a person who had a truck to help him move furniture and haul gravel.

"It's pretty straightforward. Like-minded people offer services for time. You give your time. They give theirs. It's a positive social change, and I've met some really helpful, remarkable people," Heinz said.

EVTE board member Sara Clark said the purpose of the organization is for members to exchange their various skills and talents. She said it is neither an exchange of products nor a barter system.

"A barter is between two people; they exchange only between each other. In the time bank model, the hour you spend providing a service can be exchanged to obtain an hour of needed services from any of the other 100 members," she said.

Clark said an hour of massage was equal to an hour of web design. All skills are given the same value because everyone's time is of equal worth, and the time bank is striving to create a caring economy of equality.

Hence, EVTE's motto: "Weaving

community through giving and receiving."

"I got to eat last summer because someone came and put in a garden for me, and my quality of life has definitely improved," Clark said.

Megan Hinkel, who works in the LCC testing office, said she joined EVTE in 2009 because she needed a free haircut.

Hinkel said she doesn't trust banks and likes the broader philosophy of "getting away from a cash economy and using money less."

Hinkel said regularly cooks for one person through the exchange because that person doesn't have the time to cook, and Hinkel loves cooking. She has used the time-exchange services for cat-sitting, clothes-mending and running errands, among others.

Having a large network of acquaintances came in handy one day when she was walking home in pouring rain carrying heavy cans of cat food and cat litter bags, Hinkel said. An EVTE member spotted her struggling and gave her a ride home.

"It has turned my world into people I know instead of strangers, although I'm not really a hang-out kind of per-

son. ... I can cultivate friendships in ways that are comfortable. I like to cook, so I can do that and make connections," she said.

Clark said many people like the concept but fear they don't have anything they can offer. During the orientation process, she said, EVTE helps members discover latent skills and hidden talents.

Each new member receives two hours in his or her time bank just for attending orientation, and an optional monthly potluck offers members banked time just for bringing food.

Clark said different people join for different reasons.

The community spirit and making friends is important to some, she said, but many people welcome a way to get services without subtracting from an already lean budget.

EVTE board members are hoping this year to raise awareness in the community and to get neighborhood associations and nonprofits to join as an organization. Organizations receive an unlimited amount of hours, "a cloud of hours," that can be given to any EVTE member that provides a service for their organization.

The organization's members can join at a reduced rate, and this model increases the numbers of members, which will increase the variety of services offered to all.

For more information on costs, mandatory background security checks (EVTE maintains a no-felon policy) and how to join, readers can log on to <http://www.emeraldvalleytimeexchange.org>.

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Former instructor follows filmmaking dreams

BY MAYGAN BECKERS

Reporter

AND CHELSEA VAN BAALEN

A&E Editor

Former instructor Johnnie Mazzocco has realized her dream of creating a feature film after 20 years of hard work. She plans to premiere the film, *Found Objects*, in late spring or early summer.

Found Objects follows the story of Claire Randall, who finds freedom after her home burns down. Randall uses this freedom to reinvent herself as a woman, artist and mother in a film that details the "overall struggle of being a creative woman and doing the family thing right," she said.

Mazzocco envisioned the character of Randall, an image that grew more vivid over time.

"I see an image over and over and sometimes I hear dialogue in my head. Being a mother and creative person myself, I recognize the conflicts that a person is always in. Oftentimes doing creative work and being a mother are indirect conflicts of each other. It was my own challenge," said Mazzocco. "Just talking to other women, I started realizing it was a really important topic."

She said she has always been interested in women's issues and believes the institutions of marriage and motherhood help shape women's identities.

Mazzocco drew on her own experiences and talked to other women as well.

"For women's spiritual and mental health they have to not get swallowed up in it and just be true to what they want to do," she said.

"I think there are a few messages in the film. ... There is something very specific about women's creativity and their ability or inability to express it because of social expectations. Our society has this idea about what a good woman looks like and what a good mother looks like. I think the film asks people to think about that," Mazzocco said. "It also has a message about art in general and the importance of art, and again how we live in a culture where it doesn't really support or value it."

Mazzocco has three children and often had to balance her creative drive with motherhood. She would find herself feeling compelled to write without the time to do it.

"It was difficult sometimes to find a happy medium and feel like I was good at all things," Mazzocco said.

"Working on film allows me to do all the things I'm good at. ... It's what I want to do with the rest of my life."

Johnnie Mazzocco
LCC instructor

It was while her children were growing up that Mazzocco returned to school, earning several degrees including a bachelor of arts in fiction-writing, a master's degree in film studies, a master of fine arts in digital arts and a graduate certificate in women's studies. She was in school until her youngest son was 19, so her kids knew her as a student for most of their lives.

Mazzocco divorced her husband while in school and raising her children.

"That was a whole batch of struggles," she said. "I felt like a warrior sometimes."

While Mazzocco strived to find a balance between fulfilling her creativity and being there for her children, they inspired her to pursue her goals.

"I wanted to show my kids what it was like to follow their dreams," she said.

Filmmaking is one of these dreams. *Found Objects* is currently in post-production, a process that includes

editing. Mazzocco is working on a rough cut — the blueprint for the final product — with her sound engineer.

After the rough cut, with which Mazzocco will evaluate the content of her film and trim it to shorten its length, she will "string the whole thing back together."

In the beginning stages of creating *Found Objects*, Mazzocco said she began viewing herself as a filmmaker after she realized Randall's story would be best expressed through film.

"Working on films allows me to do all the things I'm good at," Mazzocco said. "It's what I want to do with the rest of my life."

"Johnnie was great to work with. She is devoted to her story, highly organized and extremely gracious (towards) her cast and crew," director of photography Edward Schiessl said. "Helming a feature film is enough to break most people, but Johnnie kept her wits about her the whole shoot."

Mazzocco's goal is to make the final cut at less than 90 minutes, as she plans to submit *Found Objects* to film festivals.

"Keeping it right at 90 minutes will increase my chance of being seen and selected," she said. "If it gets selected and shown at the festivals and distributors see it and like it, they'll buy it and distribute it."

"Collaborating with Johnnie was a joy because of her curiosity, flexibility, vision, strength and vulnerability. Like any strong leader, she asked questions and created openings with kindness and respect. She works with mystery as an element of her process and her intuition is uncanny, not only in directing, but in dealing with human beings," said Mary Gen Fjellstad Buss, the lead actress in *Found Objects*.

Mazzocco funded most of the film herself. She paid all of the actors a "little bit" up front and plans to pay them once the film starts distributing.

"It's a big leap of faith for them. I felt really blessed by all the people that were involved in it even though funding really wasn't there," Mazzocco said.



PHOTO BY EUGENE JOHNSON FOR THE TORCH

Former instructor Johnnie Mazzocco wrapped production on her first feature film, *Found Objects*. Mazzocco plans to submit the film to festivals after editing is complete.

She said she is proud of *Found Objects*, the investment her cast and crew made in the film and her own planning skills, which she hopes will help her in future endeavors.

After *Found Objects*, Mazzocco will begin work on a second film, *Miranda's Garden*, about a woman married to a classical composer who is suffering from writer's block. After her husband moves the pair to a remote cabin, he unexpectedly drowns, leaving Miranda to pick up the pieces.

"That's the catalyst for her to become introspective," Mazzocco said.

Mazzocco said she partly credits her children for the success of *Found Objects*.

"They're all amazing and creative themselves," she said. "They completely understand my drive."

And in the balance between creativity and motherhood, Mazzocco said, "I feel like I'm in a really good place and it's all up from here."

For more information about *Found Objects* and Mazzocco's work, readers can log on to <http://foundobjectsthefilm.wordpress.com> and <http://www.dark-moonlilith.com>.

CLASS OF THE WEEK

Students learn politics via debate

BY ALLIE CHURCH

Reporter

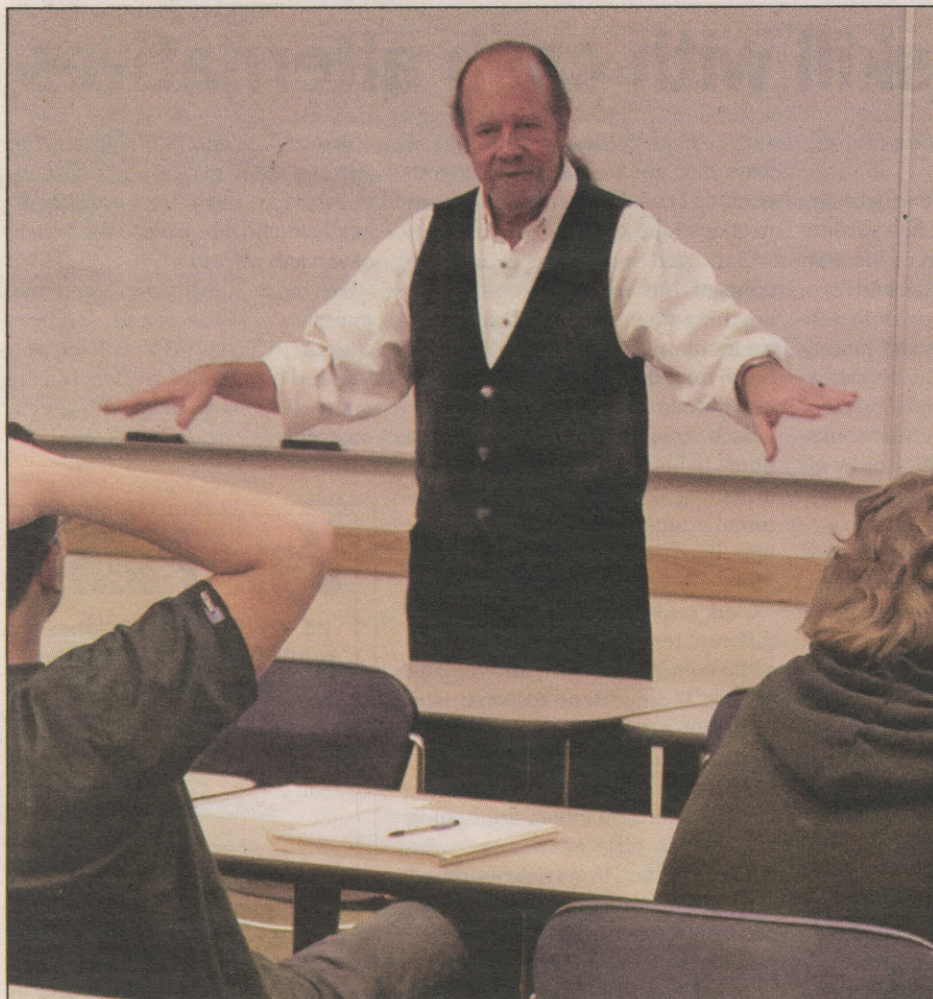


PHOTO BY REBEKAH SAPP FOR THE TORCH

LCC social science instructor Steve Candee delivers a lecture to his U.S. Government and Politics class.

Politics is a word that evokes images of old men in business suits and boring ties — at least to most people. However, what if there was a way to bring those images closer to home?

In LCC social science instructor Steve Candee's U.S. Government and Politics class, the inner workings of the American government are broken down in an understandable way, and students are shown how each citizen can play a part in it.

Candee said it is important for each person to "understand their rights as citizens, as well their responsibilities."

The course not only focuses on the American governmental structure, but how each person can ensure representation.

Student Evan Milton said Candee, "makes me feel like I can do more to change my government." Milton said he took the class to gain a deeper understanding of the U.S. political system, and because of the class he contacted his senator for the first time in his life.

Candee's assistant, Jason Conn, sits in on the class because he enjoys the group discussions and the variety of students who participate.

He said it is good when people "don't agree" and that being exposed to new perspectives "is never bad." Conn believes that in America, "we

(have) one of the few democracies that protects dissenting opinions, which is one of the key reasons our government is successful."

"We are one of the most diverse countries on Earth and are still able to get along, which is pretty impressive," Conn said.

After teaching U.S. Government and Politics for the last 25 years, Candee has a wealth of experience in the field. He believes it is important to not only get the information across, but to engage in a conversation with the students.

That is why Candee appreciates the diverse students that take his class, who range from Ron Paul supporters and staunch liberals. Candee loves the debate between students and encourages them to "express themselves and form educated opinions."

Rick Skinner, a social work major, said Candee "makes politics interesting because he is so passionate on the subject."

He said Candee is a "good instructor" and that he "is not biased," instead presenting the facts and letting the students interpret them how they will.

Currently, the class is discussing the executive bureaucracy, and how the president and executive agencies enforce laws and how they've broken them.

Candee teaches the positives of the U.S. government, but also the problems citizens can take an active part in fixing.